

Carleton

Department of Psychology

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Greetings!

Congratulations on your admission to Carleton! As the chair of psychology, I am excited to share some information about our department with you. Whether you major in psychology or some other field, you are likely to treasure your time at the College.

The [Psychology Department](#) encourages students to think like scientists and to apply empirically-based research findings to everyday life. After taking our introductory psychology course, students can select from an array of mid-level courses such as Psychopathology, Behavioral Neuroscience, and Sensation and Perception. Psychology majors also complete a comprehensive senior project (“comps”) in which they engage in an in-depth investigation of a focused psychological topic. Our classes additionally help students develop a range of skills, such as writing and speaking, information literacy, quantitative reasoning, scientific literacy, and critical thinking. The department also sponsors the popular [Cross-Cultural Psychology in Prague](#) study-abroad program, which runs every other fall.

Notably, our students are able to pursue their passion for learning not just in traditional classrooms, but also through collaborating on [faculty research projects](#). As a result, each year a number of psychology majors co-author conference presentations and professional publications with faculty. Many of our students go on to outstanding psychology Ph.D./Psy.D. and professional programs, including law, medical, and business schools, and a significant number of Carleton graduates are among the most prominent psychologists in the field today. As just one example, Dr. Daniel Simons ('91, currently at U of IL) developed the “Invisible Gorilla” video (if you haven’t seen it, I recommend you search for it online!) and subsequent book.

The [psychology faculty at Carleton](#) consists of dedicated and innovative teachers and researchers, several of whom have received nationally-recognized teaching awards and/or been awarded research grants from federal and private organizations. Our faculty and courses are roughly divided into three subareas: (1) biological and behavioral psychology, (2) cognitive psychology, and (3) social, personality, clinical and developmental psychology. We have excellent facilities and equipment available to support education in psychological science, and have recently moved to brand new teaching and research facilities in the Anderson Hall science complex.

Our biological and behavioral psychology faculty (Drs. Flores-Montoya, Meerts, Neiworth, and Wichlinski) teach courses that range from Primate Cognition to Sleep and Dreaming to Hormones and Behavior. They conduct research on topics such as primate cognition, the neuroscience and hormones of female sexual behavior in rats, the effects of early lead exposure on memory, and sleep behavior. The department has several animal colonies – including endangered cotton-top tamarin monkeys, rats, and pigeons – that faculty and students can use in theory-driven research, as well as facilities for both human and animal research.

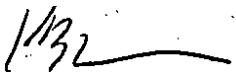
The cognitive psychology area has several faculty members: Drs. Galotti, Strand, and Van der Wege. They teach a wide variety of courses, including Sensation and Perception, Memory Processes, and Language and Deception. Their research interests range from speech perception to conversational processes to applying memory research to education. The department has research facilities, equipment (including eye trackers), and software to study different kinds of cognition.

The last area of psychology covers a diverse set of faculty interests: personality, social psychology, health psychology, clinical psychology, and developmental psychology. Our faculty (Drs. Akimoto, Kozberg, Lutsky, and me) offer courses across these areas, with research interests in quantitative reasoning, stereotypes and prejudice, and anxiety disorders and PTSD, among other topics.



I would be happy to answer any questions you have and can be contacted at 507-222-5024 or
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Sincerely,



Ken Abrams, Ph.D., LP
Professor and Chair of Psychology